



# BUSINESS BEAT

A Report to Business from the Baltimore County Police Department

February 2011

## Winter Weather Can Take Its Toll on Business

### Attention Business Community: Subscribe for FREE to Business Beat Online

Subscribe now to join the growing number of business community members who receive this free monthly publication via e-mail from the Baltimore County Police.

Business community members will receive important public safety information sent directly to their e-mail address free of charge. The publication offered is a monthly newsletter called Business Beat. It provides useful crime prevention tips geared toward the small business community.

We invite you to become part of the expanding network of businesses and law enforcement professionals who are proactively dealing with issues that affect us all. Knowledge is a powerful crime-fighting tool. Let's use our communications resources wisely.

Log on and complete the form to join:

[http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/police/media/business\\_beat.html](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/police/media/business_beat.html)

Snow, ice, and freezing rain are true indications that winter is here. As a business person, you're under a lot of pressure to make sure that your company can handle the problems associated with Mother Nature.

Let's take a look at some of the headaches that come with bad weather.

When you own or manage a retail store, it is up to you and your staff to make your business safe for customers, staff, and others. That means sidewalks need to be kept clear of ice and snow.

Think of the worst case scenario: an elderly person falls and is injured and holds you responsible for all injuries. Your insurance company, after paying the damages, will want to know what was done to make the property safe for the public.

If the answers do not meet the company's criteria, your rates are sure to go up. In this economy that's the last thing you need to shrink the bottom line.

Another safety tip that many stores and offices like to use are mats that absorb the water and ice that are on people's shoes and boots.

While some stores use the mats year-round, others try to save money by using them only during the winter months. It is up to you to gauge your needs, but trying to save a dollar or two at the expense of safety is, as the saying goes "penny-wise and pound-foolish."



**How to Reach Us...****Emergency .....911**

Non-Emergency Complaints:  
.....410-887-2222

Burglary Unit:  
.....410-887-6296

Robbery Unit:  
.....410-887-2017

Crime Information Hotline:  
.....410-583-2309

Community Resources Team:  
.....410-887-5901

Workplace Violence Team:  
.....410-931-2230

Gang Hotline:  
.....410-823-0785

**Precinct Outreach Units:**  
(all are area code 410)

Wilkens Pct. 1..... 744-1584

Woodlawn Pct. 2..... 887-4714

Franklin Pct. 3..... 887-6985

Pikesville Pct. 4..... 887-6775

Towson Pct. 6..... 887-5933

Cockeysville Pct. 7..... 887-1863

Parkville Pct. 8..... 887-5439

White Marsh Pct. 9..... 887-5035

Essex Pct. 11..... 887-0232

North Point Pct. 12..... 887-7337

Find us on the Web:  
<http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/police>

**The Honorable Kevin Kamenetz**  
**Baltimore County Executive**

Hopefully you have already contracted with a company to plow and salt the surface of your driveway and parking lot. If you haven't done so, don't wait, do it now. We have been known to have significant snowstorms in February and March, so it is best to be ready.

Keep shovels and ice treatments handy, so if there is a wintry mix, one of your employees can fix the situation. If you have delivery trucks and other vehicles, winterize your investments now. Have the radiators checked, as well as the tires.

There is nothing worse than an overheated delivery truck stuck on the side of the road with valuables inside. If you have planned ahead, you have contracted with a reliable towing service just in case something does happen to one of your vehicles.

Worn, bald tires are a hazard, and put every one on the road in danger. Automobile insurance companies are very strict and a crash due to faulty equipment is not looked upon favorably.

One crash might be forgiven, but a fleet of ill equipped vehicles will put your company at risk for lawsuits should the truck or auto cause the collision. Rest assured, your rates will go up if you are found to be at fault.

Do yourself and others a favor: be ready for old man winter. Unless you own an ice skating rink, you don't want a sheet of ice greeting your customers and employees.

